

Timanus Tenant House  
HO-881  
8325 Grove Angle Road, Ellicott City  
Howard County  
ca. 1850  
Private

The Timanus Tenant House (19<sup>th</sup> c.) is located off of Waterloo Road about 3 miles southwest of downtown Ellicott City, in Howard County, Maryland. The house, possibly once part of "Avoca" (HO-422), is now set on a 2-acre lot in a subdivision developed between WWII and the present.

The Timanus Tenant House, the primary building on the property, is a 1 ½-story, 3-bay, probably log-built, vernacular dwelling. The building is in good condition, but is nearly unrecognizable as an historic structure because it is sheathed in replacement materials and does not retain wood windows or doors. The house has a side-gable roof and a rectangular footprint.

The Timanus Tenant House is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County history. The house, which appears to be an early 19<sup>th</sup> c. log-built house - now located in a WW-II-era subdivision - was once part of a prominent Ellicott City area farm. This type of log-built two-room dwelling was historically amongst the most common dwelling forms in the county. As the county transforms from an agricultural area to a wealthy suburb, these sorts of small vernacular dwellings are increasingly rare.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-881

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Timanus Tenant House

other n/a

## 2. Location

street and number 8325 Grove Angle Road not for publication

city, town Ellicott City vicinity

county Howard Co.

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ralph P. Jett

street and number 8325 Grove Angle Road telephone n/a

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Land Records liber 3955 folio 463

city, town Columbia tax map 31 tax parcel 35 tax ID number 02-220385

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Current Function                             | Resource Count                              |  |                     |
|---|---|--|---|--|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape          | Contributing   | Noncontributing     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade      | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | <u>1</u>   | <u>1</u> buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> defense             | <input type="checkbox"/> religion           | <u>0</u>   | <u>0</u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> social             | <u>0</u>   | <u>0</u> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 |   | <input type="checkbox"/> education           | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation     | <u>0</u>   | <u>0</u> objects    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary            | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress   | <u>1</u>   | <u>1</u> Total      |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> government          | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown            |  |                     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> health care         | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use  |  |                     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> industry            | <input type="checkbox"/> other:             |  |                     |
|   |   |  |   | <b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> |                     |
|   |   |  |   | <u>0</u>   |                     |

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Timanus Tenant House (8325 Grove Angle Road) was surveyed from the public way because the owner did not grant permission to survey the property. This should provide enough information for general inclusion in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. However, additional documentation should be taken if the property is going to be developed or the house is going to be demolished.

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The Timanus Tenant House, the primary building on the property, is a 1 ½-story, 3-bay, probably log-built, vernacular dwelling. The building is in good condition, but is nearly unrecognizable as an historic structure because it is sheathed in replacement materials and does not retain wood windows or doors. The house has a side-gable roof and a rectangular footprint. The house is covered with aluminum siding, has asphalt roofing and has replacement windows and replacement shutters. The main house has two wings: a shed roofed 1-story rear addition that extends across the rear façade and a gable-roofed addition that projects from the north façade of the rear ell and the main house.

The Timanus Tenant House is ascribed a ca. 1800 construction date in the State of Maryland assessment data. Owners almost always provide the date of construction when buildings are attributed an early date. While exterior inspection cannot confirm or deny this early date of construction, the building does display a common form for 19<sup>th</sup> c. log-built houses in the area.

The primary façade of the house faces east. The east façade is organized around its entry bay, although all of the openings are located slightly off-center as is common in two-room floor plans. A 1-story hipped-roof porch with brick piers and a wood deck extends across the front façade.

The side (north and south) façades of the main house do not have any 1<sup>st</sup> story openings. One attic window opening is centered in the gable on each façade. A shed-roofed porch covers a side door on the south façade of the rear wing, which presumably houses the kitchen. A window opening is centered on the east façade of the gable-roofed addition.

A late 20<sup>th</sup> century CMU 2-car garage is located southwest of the house and a U-shaped asphalt drive leads past the house to the garage.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-881

| Period  | Areas of Significance                           | Check and justify below                               |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine        | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology             | <input type="checkbox"/> education                    | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/<br>recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000-                | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage              | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/<br>settlement   | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> social history      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history       | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           |   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____        |

**Specific dates** 1850, 1882, 1951, 1955 **Architect/Builder** unknown

**Construction dates** 1<sup>st</sup> half 19<sup>th</sup> c.

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Timanus Tenant House is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County history. The house, which appears to be an early 19<sup>th</sup> c. log-built house - now located in a WW-II-era subdivision - was once part of a prominent Ellicott City area farm. This type of log-built two-room dwelling was historically amongst the most common dwelling forms in the county. As the county transforms from an agricultural area to a wealthy suburb, these sorts of small vernacular dwellings are increasingly rare.

The Timanus Tenant House was a worker's house on a larger estate. In 1850, Michael Pue sold 110 acres that was part of the land grants Chews Resolution Manor and a small part of Chews Vineyard to William T. Timanus. This property was part of "Avoca" (HO-422), which remains nearby on Montgomery Road. By 1860, the Timanus House (no longer extant) appears on the *Martenet's Map*. William T. Timanus was a wealthy butcher and farmer and the house at Grove Angle Road presumably housed workers at the farm. It is not yet known whether the house was built as part of Avoca or by the Timanus family.

In 1860, the Timanus family consisted of William Timanus (aged 50) – a butcher and farmer, Mary (aged 45), Laura (aged 15), Fannie (aged 13), Anna (aged 3), Willie (aged 11), Kate (aged 1), and William E. (aged 7), Oliver Martin (aged 16) – a farm hand, Howard Dorsey (aged 7), an African-American farm hand, and Harriett Linn (aged 20), a mixed race house servant.<sup>1</sup> William Timanus' real estate was valued at \$12,000 and his personal estate at \$5,700.

In 1882, the property was sold to Alfred V. Thomas, who owned Avoca at that date, in a Trustee's sale, presumably after the death of both William and Mary Timanus. The property remained in the Thomas family until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when Emily Thomas McCloskey and her husband sold a 5.907-acre parcel to Walter and Harriett Ryan. In 1955, the Ryans sold a 2-acre portion including the Timanus Tenant House to Pelmar and Mabel C. Jett. Mabel Jett died in 1997 and Pelmar Jett Sr. transferred the house to his son Pelmar Ralph Jett, who still owns the house.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, *Eighth Census of United States: 1860, Population Schedule*, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, page 40.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-881

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Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. **Census of United States: Population Schedule, 1860, 1870, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.**

Hopkins, G.M. **Atlas of Howard County, Maryland, 1878.** Ellicott City, MD: Howard County Bicentennial Commission, Inc., 1975.

Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

Martenet, Simon J. **Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland.** Baltimore, 1860.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 2 acres

Acreage of historical setting 110 acres

Quadrangle name Savage

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for the Timanus Tenant house corresponds to Map 31, Grid 13, Parcel 35, which is the buildings' current legal lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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|                 |   |           |              |
|-----------------|---|-----------|--------------|
| name/title      | Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor       |           |              |
| organization    | Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning | date      | Sept 9, 2005 |
| street & number | 3430 Courthouse Drive                         | telephone | 410-313-4335 |
| city or town    | Ellicott City                                 | state     | MD           |

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

HO-881  
 Timanus House  
 8325 Grove Angle Road, Ellicott City  
 Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

|   |  |            |      |     |      |      |       |  |
|---|--|------------|------|-----|------|------|-------|--|
| Pelmar C. Jett, by Pelmar Ralph Jett, his attorney-in-fact        | Pelmar Ralph Jett                        | 03-26-1997 | 3922 | 463 | Deed | 0.00 | 2     | Mabel C. Jett died February 25, 1997.  |
| Walter W. Ryan, Jr. and Harriett E. Ryan                          | Pelmar C. Jett and Mabel C. Jett         | 12-07-1955 | 275  | 491 | Deed | 5.00 | 2     |  |
| Emily Thomas McCloskey and Ervin G. McCloskey, her husband, et al | Walter W. Ryan, Jr. and Harriett E. Ryan | 03-02-1951 | 223  | 327 | Deed | 5.00 | 5.907 | Being part of the secondly described of those two parcels of ground which , by deed dated December 10, 1914 and recorded in Liber 104, folio 430 were granted and conveyed by Alfred V. Thomas and wife to James Clark Thomas.<br>James Clark Thomas died, intestate, on the 23rd of December, 1922 and his widow, Marian Brian Thomas and daughters, Martha Clark Thomas, and Emily Thomas McClockey, under the name of Marian Emily Thomas, as his heirs-at-law.<br>Marian Brian Thomas died February 23rd, 1929 and devised all her interest in said farm to Marian Emily Thomas, therein calling her Emily B. Thomas; The said Marian Emily Thomas intermarried with Lester C. Wilbur Jr., from whom she divorced August 4, 1943 and has since intermarried with Ervin G. McCloskey. |

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|---------------------------|------------------|------------|----|-----|------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Henry E. Wooster, Trustee | Alfred V. Thomas | 05-26-1882 | 45 | 93  | Deed | 4310                        | 110 acres, 1 rood, and 19 square perches | Whereas by a decree of the Circuit Court of Howard County passed on the 15th day of January 1876 in the case of E. A. Talbott, administrator, and others vs. Willimena Timanus, and others, Henry Wooster was appointed trustee to sell the property, sale of which was reported 23rd of August in 1878. |
| Michael Pue               | Wm T. Timanus    | 08-24-1850 | 10 | 183 | Deed | 3314 dollars and 62.5 cents | 110 acres, 1 rood, and 19 square perches | Part of Chews Resolution Manor and a small part of Chews Vineyard.   |

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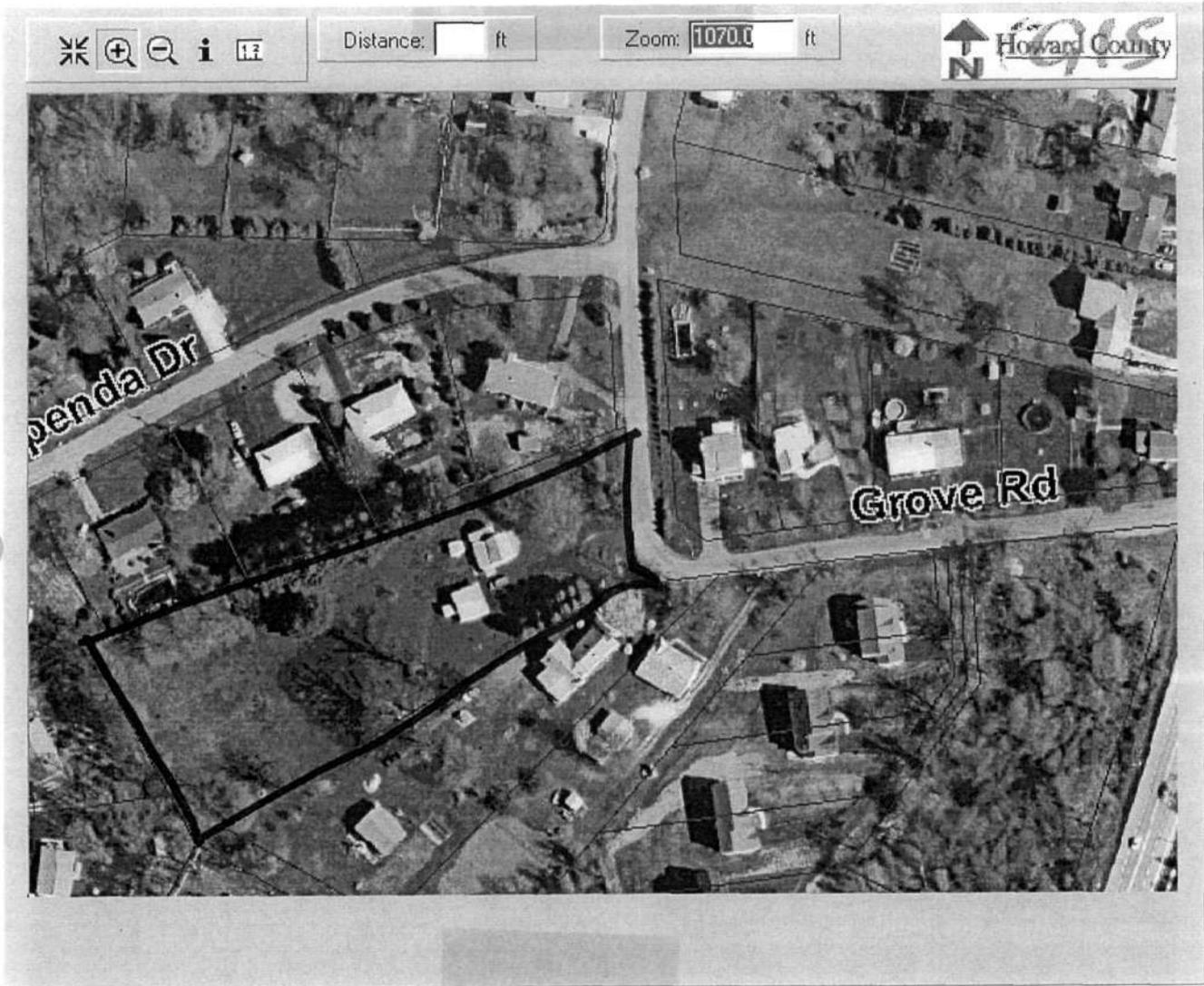
CHAIN OF TITLE

|   |  |            |      |     |      |      |       |  |
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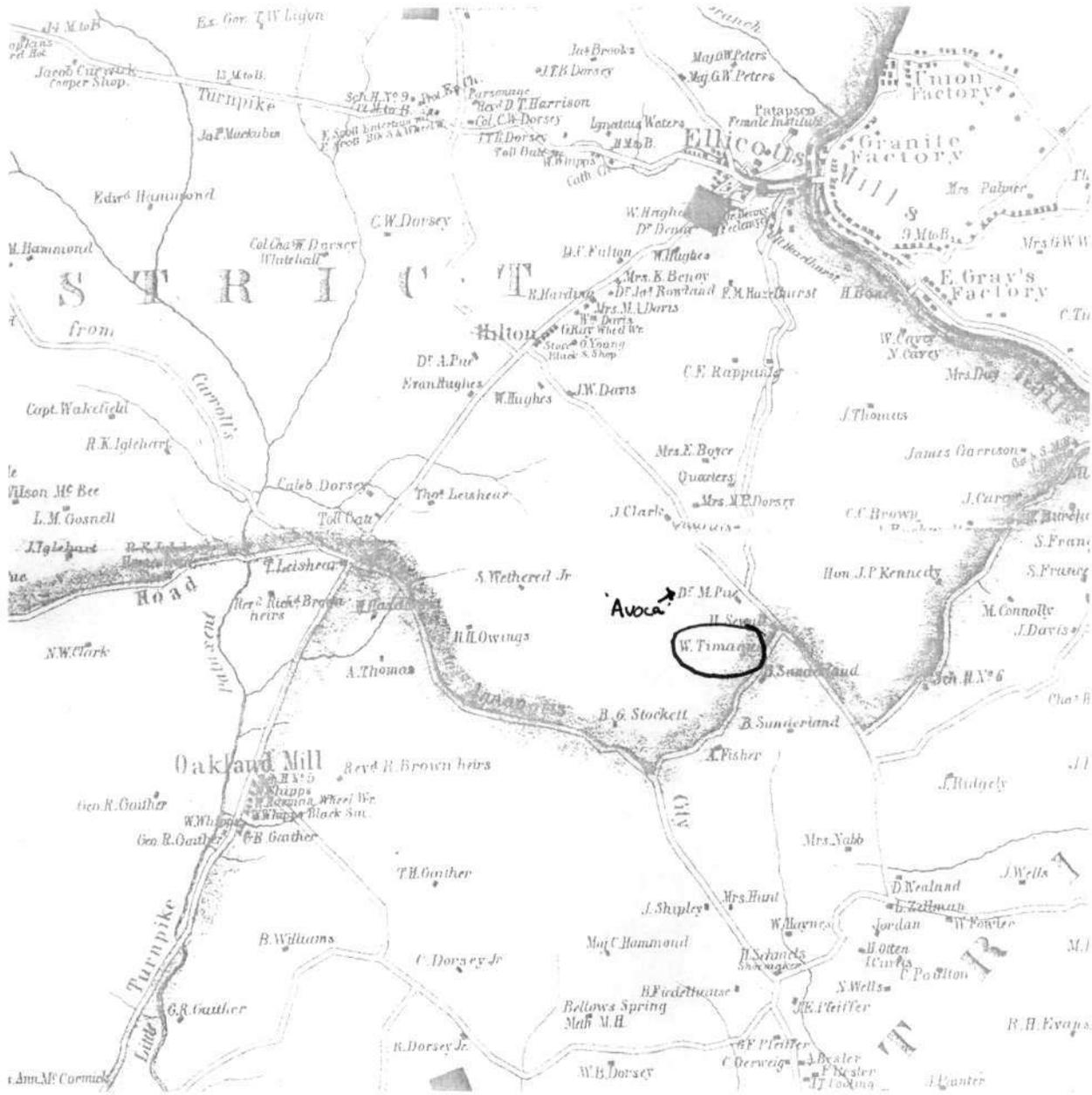
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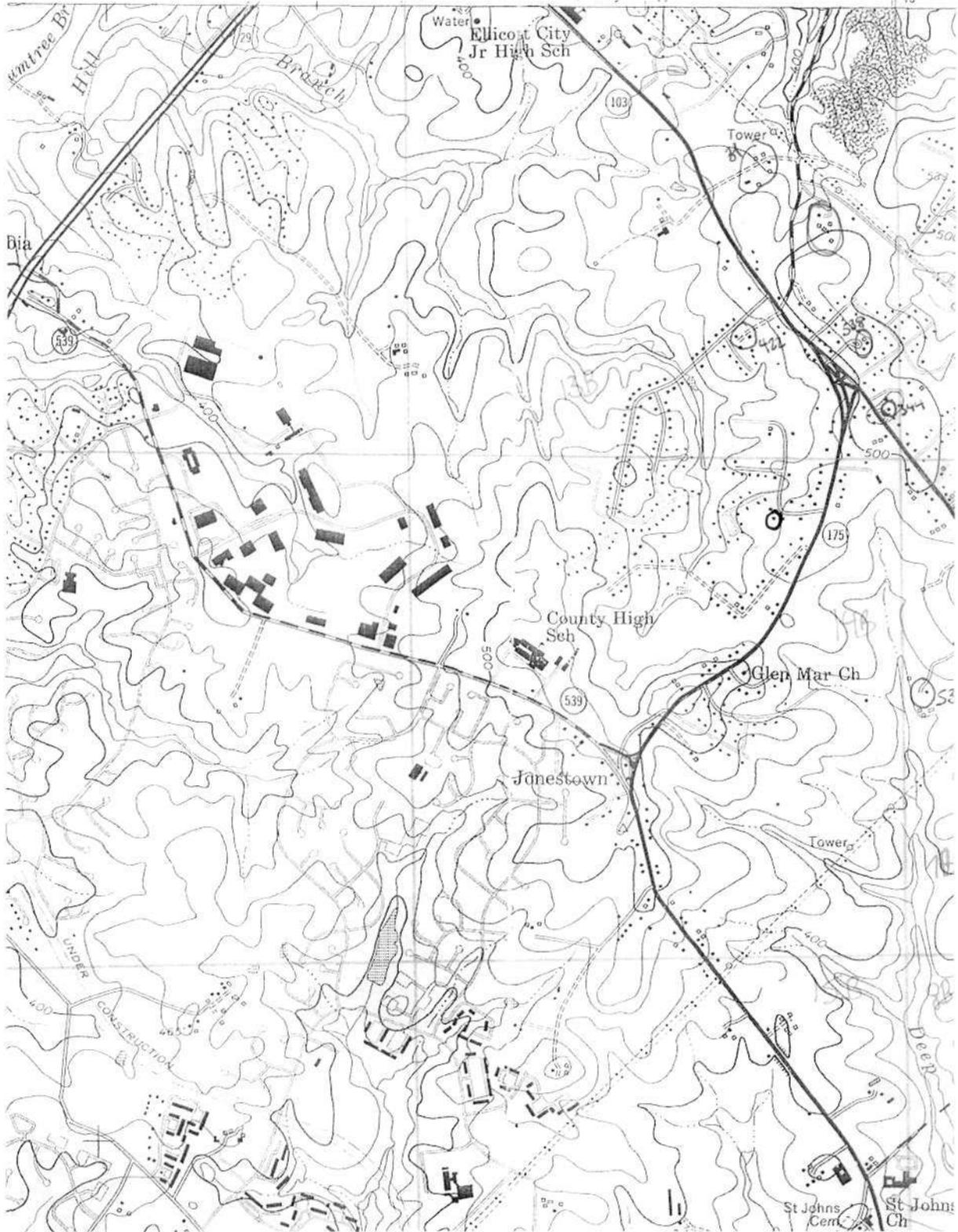
|                           |                  |            |    |     |      |                             |  |  |
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*Site plan/Aerial photo*



Timanus House (HO-881)  
 8325 Grove Angle Road, Ellicott City  
 Howard County  
 1860 Martenet's Map



Timanus House (HO-881)  
8325 Grove Angle Road, Ellicott City  
Howard County  
*USGS Savage Quad*



HO-88i

Timanus Tenant House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

09-05

MD SHPO

View w. Shows house and garage  
in setting.

1 of 1